

City of Corunna
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, October 7, 2002

Present: Corey, Jessen, Mehigh, Runyan, Sanderson, Wagner.

Absent: Johnson.

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Janet Washburn, Parks and Recreation Director; Tim Crawford, Superintendent of Public Works; Judy Horton; Larry LeCureux; Al Fowler; Dan & Cheryl Kribs; Shirley Sanderson; Helen Granger, The Independent; Gary Granger; Jackie Leone, The Argus Press; Pat & Bernie Yott; and other concerned citizens.

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chambers by Mayor Corey at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Mehigh moved, Runyan seconded to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 16, 2002 as amended with deletions to the proposed minutes on page three under Consider Purchase of 4X4 Pickup & Plow For Motor Pool, page 10 under Consider Reducing Fee for Marriages and page 11 under Consider Paving One-Half Block of S. McDonnell Street.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Sanderson, Runyan, Jessen, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Runyan moved, Jessen seconded to approve the agenda with the deletion of Item No. 3) Consider Approval of Prein & Newhof Review and Item No. 5) Consider Appointments to the Library Ad-hoc Committee and the addition of Proclamation Presentation to Dan Kribs, Item No. 6) Consider Appointment to the Fourth of July Commission, Item No. 7) Consider Purchase of "Horse Enthusiasts" Banner and Item No. 8) Consider Appointments to the Shiawassee Area Transportation Agency Board.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Jessen, Runyan, Mehigh, Wagner, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Wagner moved, Runyan seconded to approve the vendor disbursements as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Wagner, Jessen, Sanderson, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Mayor Corey presented Dan Kribs with a proclamation in recognition of his involvement with the Fourth of July Commission.

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Al Fowler advised in 1998, he came to city hall to try to get his taxes lowered. At that time, the review board said no so he appealed his property taxes to the state. He further advised he did not get a tax statement in July so he came down to city hall and Mr. Smith advised him his taxes would be lowered. He also advised about the time Ms. Hitchcock was going to leave, he came to a meeting where Ms. Hitchcock wanted to buy five years pension for \$10,000 and he stood up and told the council that the city could not afford that. The very next week he received a letter from Ms. Lawson that stated his taxes were wrongly lowered in 1998 and they were going to be raised back to what they were. He told Ms. Lawson he did not want her to do that and was told to take the issue to the state, which he did. In the meantime, he talked to Mr. Sawyer and Dr. Billis and told them they should prosecute the people who committed the fraud by lowering his taxes when they should not have been lowered, but they did not want to do that at that time. Mr. Fowler stated he received a letter last Saturday from the state that told him his taxes were being raised to what they were in 1998. The state told him that what the city did was fraud. Mr. Fowler further stated he would like a letter from the council telling him what the city is going to do to these people who cheated the city out of its tax dollars. He also stated he wants the letter in 10 days because if the city is not going to do anything then maybe he can do something by showing Channel 12 or Channel 10 all of his paperwork. Mayor Corey stated he appreciated the comments but the city would have to look into the situation. Mr. Fowler asked how many days the city would need. Mayor Corey advised he did not know and was not even sure the council would respond to him in that way. A lot of allegations were made and it sounds like Mr. Fowler's tax base was lowered and someone thought it was inappropriate because the state found that the taxes should have been left where they were. Mayor Corey further advised Mr. Fowler that he has gotten a tax break for a few years and his taxes are now back to where they were. Mr. Fowler stated he did not know if the assessor did it on his own or if the city manager or council lowered his taxes. Mayor Corey advised the city council would not be involved. Mr. Fowler stated somebody was involved and he would like an answer.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT/PRE-COUNCIL DISCUSSION: Joe Sawyer reviewed his additions to his manager's report with the city council and with those in the audience. He advised the historical commission has voted to move the New Haven Township hall into the historical village on November 6.

CONSIDER 2002 TREE AND STUMP REMOVAL: Mehig moved, Jessen seconded to authorize the 2002 tree and stump removal by Bill Robinson Tree Service for a cost of \$3,750 to be paid for from line item 101-441-808.000. Councilperson Mehig asked what the city's policy was if there is a tree near the sidewalk that is in danger of coming down and will create a hazard. Mr. Sawyer advised he would take a look at the situation.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehig, Jessen, Wagner, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER COMPUTER PURCHASE FOR DPW: Jessen moved, Mehig seconded to approve the

purchase of a new computer for an amount not to exceed \$2,250 for the Public Works Garage to be paid for, \$750 from line item 101-203-977.000, \$750 from line item 591-556-977.000, and \$750 from line item 590-548-977.000.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehigh, Jessen, Runyan, Sanderson, Wagner.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT TO INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE: Mehigh moved, Jessen seconded to appoint Larry Runyan to the Inter-Governmental Committee.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Wagner, Mehigh, Runyan, Jessen.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT TO FOURTH OF JULY COMMISSION: Mehigh moved, Sanderson seconded to appoint Albert Bayless to the Fourth of July Commission for a term to begin upon the taking of the oath of office and continuing indefinitely to serve at the pleasure of the council.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Sanderson, Runyan, Jessen, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER PURCHASE OF "HORSE ENTHUSIASTS" BANNER: Runyan moved, Jessen seconded to approve the purchase of two "Welcome Horse Enthusiasts" banners from Edwards Sign and Screen Printing for a cost not to exceed \$768 to be paid for from line item 101-101-818.000.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Jessen, Runyan, Mehigh, Wagner, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO THE SHIAWASSEE AREA TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

BOARD: Runyan moved, Jessen seconded to reappoint Arnie Jessen to the Shiawassee Area Transportation Agency for a term of three years

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Wagner, Jessen, Sanderson, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Mehigh moved, Sanderson seconded to appoint Dan Wagner as the alternate to the Shiawassee Area Transportation Agency for a term of three years.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehigh, Jessen, Wagner, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Al Fowler stated no one in the audience knows where the city council is getting the money from to pay for things when just the numbers are read. It is important for the people to know where the money is coming from. Mayor Corey advised the suggestion would be taken into consideration.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Councilperson Mehig thanked the citizens for their cooperation during the smoke testing. It was very pleasant to be out in the city and have the people want to know what was going on. He also thanked Mr. Crawford and his staff, Mr. Sawyer and the city council for their help.

Councilperson Runyan stated he wanted to thank the citizens in the community for putting up with the street program the city had this year. He knows there was some discomfort with the traffic jams but there were few complaints.

Councilperson Sanderson thanked Councilperson Jessen for putting away the picture. Councilperson Sanderson stated the council has not received a report from the police department since April. Mr. Sawyer advised the May report was put in the August packet, but the police department is two months behind primarily because of the absence of Ms. Spencer from the office due to her medical condition and recent surgery. He further advised he would put a push on getting the reports caught up.

Mayor Corey stated he wanted to thank the citizens for putting up with the smoke testing, but he also wanted to thank the Valley Asphalt people for doing a remarkable job with paving the city streets. Mr. Sawyer advised a proclamation would be put together for them.

ADJOURN: Mehig moved, Runyan seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehig, Jessen, Runyan, Sanderson, Wagner.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 7:48 p.m.

STEVE COREY, MAYOR

YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK